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SUBJECT: SHARM AL-SHEIKH FOLLOW-UP - AUSTRALIA STILL
CONSIDERING DETAILS

REF: STATE 20388

(SBU) Embassy confirms the Australian pledge of A\$20 million made at the March 2 donors' conference in Sharm al-Sheikh; at current exchange rate that is US\$13.7 million. That is entirely new money; Australia provided A\$10 million in humanitarian assistance in January (through the World Food Programme), and pledged A\$45 at the 2008 Paris donors' conference. Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) told econoff March 20 that the GOA is still determining how it will disburse the money, pending results of the reconciliation talks. Options could include direct budget assistance to the Palestine Authority or perhaps through a World Bank mechanism.

CLUNE